

Statement by India during the thematic debate on Disarmament Machinery at the First Committee of the UN General Assembly, New York, October 2022

Mr Chair,

The United Nations, in accordance with the UN charter, has a central role and primary responsibility in the sphere of disarmament. India is committed to the ideals enshrined in the UN Charter and to multilateralism in pursuit of those ideals. A reformed and effective United Nations is essential for it to successfully discharge its functions.

India attaches high priority to the work of the UN disarmament machinery laid out by the SSOD-1, consisting of the triad of the Conference on Disarmament, the First Committee and the UN Disarmament Commission, which continue to be the ideal forums for deliberation and negotiations on matters related to disarmament, non-proliferation and international security.

Mr. Chair,

India accords high priority to the Conference on Disarmament as the world's single disarmament negotiating forum.

The CD has the mandate, membership and rules for negotiating legally-binding instruments on the core items on its Agenda.

Despite best efforts, the CD has not been able to adopt a Programme of Work. Instead of questioning the relevance and effectiveness of the CD and looking for alternate forums, States must demonstrate political will and focus efforts on the CD's negotiating mandate.

This year, India participated constructively in the work of the Subsidiary Bodies at the Conference.

However, much work remains to be done. The CD must be allowed to discharge its important mandate to negotiate.

India has expressed its readiness and commitment to work with other Member States on all core items on the CD's Agenda, including a Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty (FMCT) on the basis of CD/1299 and the mandate contained therein.

Mr. Chair,

India is pleased that the Disarmament Commission could resume its substantive session this year after a gap of almost 3 years.

As the main deliberative body within the United Nations on disarmament issues, the Commission's role as a platform for dialogue and cooperation, bringing together universal membership of all Member States is significant.

The Commission has made several important achievements in its past, having successfully adopted several guidelines and recommendations.

India attaches high importance to the UNDC's work and hopes that the Commission would achieve substantive recommendations next year on the issues on its Agenda.

Mr. Chair,

India looks forward to the convening of the SSOD–IV, which is long overdue and can be a useful opportunity to take stock of the progress made in the disarmament machinery and to look at ways to further revitalize it.

India also values the important efforts by UNIDIR in various areas of our work.

India's annual Disarmament and International Security fellowship demonstrates the high priority we attach to promoting disarmament education.

Mr. Chair,

The First Committee, mandated by the SSOD-1 to deal with the questions related to international peace and security is an important platform that brings together all UN Member States to contribute their views.

India hopes that our work this year at the First Committee will galvanize the disarmament machinery in its pursuit of collective solutions on matters related to disarmament and international security.

India stands ready to contribute to this process and work with fellow member States in our collective endeavour to safeguard global peace and security.

I thank you, Mr. Chair.
